



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

October 9, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name of the Chief Executive Officer.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

STATUS REPORT ON PROPOSED AUTOMATED INTERAGENCY DATA SYSTEM - E-MHUB PROJECT

On May 16, 2006, your Board instructed the Chief Information Officer (CIO), in conjunction with the Directors of the Departments of Health Services (DHS), Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Mental Health (DMH), County Counsel, and this Office to report back in 30 days on the feasibility of a cost-effective automated data system and include in the analysis the status of the medical passport.

As previously reported, the County was unsuccessful in obtaining approval from the federal Department of Health and Human Services for our proposed Child Health and Education Passport Pilot Project. This represents our sixth status report to your Board on the progress of the County's ongoing efforts related to the development and implementation of an alternative countywide automated health data system to meet the needs of children under the supervision of DCFS.

STATUS

A standing Work Group comprised of representatives from this Office, DCFS, DHS, DMH, CIO, and County Counsel collaborated to establish a plan for the potential electronic sharing of medical information for children referred by DCFS. The Work Group, led by DHS, formed a close partnership to develop an Enterprise mHUB (E-mHUB) data system to enhance services within DHS' Medical Hub Clinics to improve continuity of care and coordination of medical services provided to children under DCFS' supervision.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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To date, we have advised your Board on the completion of two of the five steps of the workflow process for this proposed project: 1) the information phase, articulating the strategic goal to improve health information technology for a specific population of children and 2) the discovery phase, development of recommendations to address your Board's directives within available funding sources. The remaining steps in this broad workflow process include: 3) the planning phase, which is currently underway; 4) the system building and testing phase; and 5) the implementation phase.

On September 11, 2008, your Board was notified of DHS' intent to enter into sole source negotiations with Saga Technologies, Inc. (Saga), the developer of the standalone mHUB system currently in operation at the LAC+USC Medical Hub. Accordingly, discussions commenced with Saga to ensure an understanding of the scope of work required for this innovative countywide project.

Complex challenges arose which were addressed during the planning for this project which include but are not limited to the following:

- Develop best practices to ensure appropriate standards and procedures are in place for the data sharing system.
- Identify the clinically appropriate levels of user access, consistent with State and federal confidentiality laws and establish measures to ensure role-based access to the E-mHUB system are in place, which comply with applicable confidentiality laws.
- Identify existing constraints and system modifications to meet operational needs, staff training, and assessments from end-user perspective.
- Prepare the County contracting documents for a proposed Information Technology (IT) agreement, which will ensure all County required terms are included.
- Identify measures to maintain system compliance with applicable State and federal laws and regulations, including State and federal confidentiality laws pertaining to health information privacy and data security.
- Address various Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements and the evolving requirements that will be in place when this system becomes operational.

It is anticipated that a Board letter will be filed regarding this contract in March 2010. Thereafter, contingent upon your Board's approval to proceed with a contract agreement with Saga, the system design, building, and testing phase would commence April 2010 through September 2010. Once the system is built by Saga, DHS would require time to thoroughly test the new E-mHUB system to ensure that all functionalities work, as specified in the contract agreement, before the system is deployed to the DHS Medical Hubs.

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In the deployment stage, this new system will be rolled out to one Medical Hub at a time, starting with LAC+USC Medical Hub so they can validate the modifications made to their existing system. In comparison to the standalone mHUB, the E-mHUB will allow for electronic communication between all the Medical Hubs when the system becomes fully operational at the various sites. This phase is expected to take four months beginning October 2010, with full implementation of the E-mHUB system completed by January 2011.

TIMELINE UPDATE

Saga and DHS meet regularly to finalize the system requirements necessary for the E-mHUB system and continued discussions, specifically related to the business model, are in progress with Saga.

On October 28, 2008, our previous report indicated the timeline to present your Board with a recommended contract agreement would be completed in January 2009. However, the workgroup was unable to meet this timeframe due to the need to address the complex issues identified above. After considerable deliberation, the Work Group has determined the current projected Board date is March 2010.

In order to present a recommended contract for your Board's consideration by March 2010, comprehensive contract negotiations with Saga are targeted for completion by December 2009. The attached timeline summarizes the planned tasks to complete this project.

The next update to your Board will be provided in March 2010 along with a Board letter with recommendation for a contract agreement. A status report will be provided every six months thereafter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Dara Lark at (213) 974-2396 or dlark@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:SRH:SAS
MLM:DL:bjs

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Acting County Counsel
Chief Information Officer
Department of Children and Family Services
Department of Health Services
Department of Mental Health

Enterprise mHUB (E-mHUB) Application

Estimated E-mHUB Project Timeline, as of 9/17/09

(Assumes an April 1, 2010 Executed Board Agreement)

	2009												2010												2011		Responsible Parties:
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan					
Approve Item Control for Project Manager and Recruit Position																								County CEO, DHR & DHS			
Formulating Contract Documents																								DHS, County CEO, County Counsel & County CIO			
Vendor Negotiations																								DHS, Saga, County Counsel & County CIO			
Board Letter Review and Filing Process												Board Letter Review/ Filing												DHS, County CIO, County CEO & Board of Supervisors			
Seek Board Approval												Seek Board Approval												DHS, County CIO, County CEO & Board of Supervisors			
Designing													Designing											Saga, DHS, DCFS & DMH			
Building															Building									Saga			
Testing																	Testing							Saga, DHS, DCFS & DMH			
Deployment																				Deployment				Saga, DHS, DCFS & DMH			
NOTE: This project timeline excludes the educational component.																											